National River Conservation Plan

2806. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT and FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when the centrally sponsored National River Conservation Plan is being implemented;

(b) the rivers included under the conservation plan so far;

(c) whether any river in orissa has been included under the plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Centrally Sponsored National River Conservation Plan is being implemented since July, 1995.

(b) There are 22 rivers included under the National River Conservation Plan. They are; (1) Ganga, (2) Yamuna, (3) Gomti, (4) Damodar, (5) Godavari, (6) Krishna, (7) Subarnrekha, (8) Sabarmati, (9) Tunga, (10) Bhadra, (11) Tunga-bhadra, (12) Cauvery, (13) Khan, (14) Kshipra, (15) Tapti, (16) Betwa, (17) Narmada, (18) Wainganga, (19) Chambal, (20) Mahanadi, (21) Brahmani, and (22) Satluj.

(c) to (e) Two rivers of Orissa namely *Mahanadi & Brachmani* have been included under the Plan at an approved cost of Rs. 23.98 crore. The towns covered are Cuttack, Telcher, Chandbali and Dharamshala. So far, an amount of Rs. 0.15 crore has been spent thereon.

Protection of Pacific Ridley Sea Turtles

2807. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Orissa Government and the Central Government every month to save the pacific Ridley sea turtles at Bhitarakanika in Orissa; and

(b) the details of steps presently being taken for the proper protection of those sea turtles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Government of India have released an amount of Rs. 51 lakhs and Rs. 12.6 lakhs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Development of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries and Eco-development Around Protected Areas respectively, to save the pacific Ridley sea turtles in Gahirmatha Sanctuary.

(b) the steps taken by the Government are as follows:

(i) Government of Orissa has decided that the mechanised boats with gill nets would not be allowed to fish in the area notified as Gahirmatha Sanctuary.

(ii) Forest Department has hired mechanised boats for effective patrolling of the area from land ward side. One Assistant Conservator of Forests and a section of Police is being earmarked exclusively for the patrolling work.

(iii) Coast Guards have been directed to intensify the patrolling of the Sanctuary from the sea ward side.

'WHO and WRI's Study on Pollution'

2808. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the joint study conducted by WHO and WRI (World Resource Institute) revealing that the Indian metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Calcutta are the World's most polluted cities where children under five are facing the great risk of air pollution;